

09/491,595

REMARKS

Claims 9-20, 22, 28-39, 41-43 and 47-49 have been cancelled. New claims 52, 53, 54 and 55 have been added. No new matter has been added by amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

5.) The Examiner rejects claims 22, 30-33 and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claims in order to expedite prosecution. New claims 52-55 have been added. These claims are in the form suggested by Supervisory Examiner Amy Nelson.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

6.) The Examiner previously rejected claims 9-20, 28-39, 41-43, 47-49 and rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant traverses the rejection but has cancelled the claims in order to expedite prosecution. New claims 52-55 have been added. These claims are in the form suggested by Supervisory Examiner Amy Nelson.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

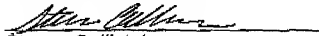
7.) The Examiner previously rejected claims 14, 17, 33, 36, 41 and 43 and rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under U.S.C. 103(a), as obvious over Carrigan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,148). Applicant traverses the rejection but has cancelled the claims in order to expedite prosecution. New claims 52-55 have been added. These claims are in the form suggested by Supervisory Examiner Amy Nelson.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks, claims 1-8, 21, 23-27, and 40 stand as previously allowed and claims 52-55 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice of allowability is respectfully requested. If it is felt that it would aid in prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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